

DSHS/DVR 2016 – 2020 State Plan

Partnerships & Cooperative Agreements

Draft Federal Guidance

Cooperative Agreements with Agencies Not Carrying Out Activities Under the Statewide Workforce Development System

Describe interagency cooperation with and utilization of the services and facilities of agencies and programs that are not carrying out activities through the statewide workforce development system with respect to:

1. Federal, State, and local agencies and programs;
2. State programs carried out under section 4 of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998;
3. Programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the Department of Agriculture;
4. Non-educational agencies serving out-of-school youth; and
5. State use contracting programs.

Interagency Cooperation

Describe how the designated State unit will collaborate with the State agency responsible for administering each of the following programs to develop opportunities for competitive integrated employment, to the greatest extent practicable:

1. the State Medicaid plan under title XIX of the Social Security Act;
2. the State agency responsible for providing services for individuals with developmental disabilities; and
3. the State agency responsible for providing mental health services.

Introduction

DSHS/DVR has elected to combine two distinct state plan attachments required by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (i.e. *Cooperative Agreements with Agencies Not Carrying Out Activities Under the Statewide Workforce Development System* and *Interagency Cooperation*) into this one section. This editorial choice is made so that DSHS/DVR partnerships, cooperative agreements, and interagency agreements may be reviewed in full; authorities and stakeholders may comprehensively evaluate the scope and depth of DSHS/DVR's comprehensive partnership efforts.

DSHS/DVR's partnerships and cooperative agreements strengthen the State of Washington's ability to serve individuals with disabilities through strategic initiatives and coordinated services.

DSHS/DVR and its Partnerships

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WSDVA)

DSHS/DVR and WSDVA have procedures for referring DSHS/DVR customers with military service to WSDVA to determine eligibility for any state or federal Veterans' benefits. This collaboration has increased the use of Veterans' benefits as comparable services for DSHS/DVR customers who are veterans with disabilities.

United States Veterans Administration (USVA)

DSHS/DVR has a cooperative agreement with the regional USVA to facilitate improved service delivery for customers receiving USVA benefits by formalizing referral procedures, designating local referral liaisons, and coordinating services that contribute to the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services

DSHS/DVR is housed within the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) which is an umbrella agency for Medicaid services, alcohol and substance abuse recovery, long term care and disability services, children's services, economic assistance services, juvenile justice services, and other programs. DSHS/DVR continues close collaboration throughout DSHS.

- The Community Services Division (CSD) administers the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program and the Aged, Blind, Disabled (ABD) Program (formerly known as the General Assistance – Unemployable (GAU) Program), both of which provide time-limited income assistance and other support services to low-income families and individuals. Washington DSHS/DVR continues to have an interagency agreement with the CSD that defines mutual roles and practices for serving joint customers.
- The Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery combines the former Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, referred to as DBHR - Chemical Dependency (DBHR-CD), with the Mental Health Division, referred to as DBHR – Mental Health (DBHR-MH). DBHR-CD contracts with counties to deliver outpatient chemical dependency treatment and directly contracts for residential treatment services. DBHR-MH contracts with regional entities for the delivery of community mental health services and directly operates two state psychiatric hospitals.

- DSHS/DVR maintains active referral relationships with treatment providers at the local level that are funded through DBHR-CD contracts with each county.
 - DSHS/DVR and DBHR-MH have signed a memorandum of collaboration that establishes methods for Medicaid outpatient behavioral health services to be provided as extended services for joint DSHS/DVR supported employment customers.
 - DBHR-MH has become a Ticket-to-Work (TTW) Employment Network and is establishing a Partnership Plus Agreement with DSHS/DVR to build a revenue stream from the TTW Program that will fund extended services for those mental health customers who require a supported employment model.
 - DSHS/DVR is participating with DBHR-MH in conducting a pilot project at two locations that is designed to integrate the Individual Placement Support (IPS) model of supported employment with DSHS/DVR supported employment services. In addition, DSHS/DVR has assigned liaison counselors that work itinerantly from several Mental Health agencies across the state. The counselor works from the mental health center at least one day per week, facilitating access to DSHS/DVR services for mental health consumers.
- The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) is the primary agency that funds extended services for individuals with developmental disabilities who require supported employment. DDA contracts for these services with Washington counties, and counties sub-contract with Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs) to provide the direct services.
 - DSHS/DVR and DDA leadership meet on a regular basis, and are co-sponsoring several initiatives aimed at improving employment outcomes for youth with developmental disabilities and advancing the skills of community rehabilitation programs that serve joint DSHS/DVR and DDA customers.
 - DSHS/DVR is represented as a member of the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council.
- The Aging and Long Term Support Administration (AL TSA) provides long-term care through personal care attendant services, Kinship Care, Roads to Community Living, “money follows the person” policies, New Freedom Services, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Council, and the Title V Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP). DSHS/DVR and AL TSA in partnership through their Strategic Business Plan have agreed to coordinate employment services for individuals with disabilities.
- Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) provides rehabilitative services to justice-involved youth. DSHS/DVR and JR have a cooperative agreement to jointly serve JR youth who are eligible for Pre-employment Transition Services and other DSHS/DVR services. Through coordinated services, JR youth with disabilities will receive services supporting community re-entry along career pathways.
- The Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH) coordinates with DSHS/DVR’s Statewide Deaf Services Coordinator on multiple projects. This coordination strengthens DSHS/DVR’s partnership with ODHH. ODHH manages the Sign Language Interpreter Contract and values feedback from all sources to improve the quality of interpreter services. ODHH is the managing

agency for DSHS/DVR's contract for Video Relay System (VRS) and Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) technologies. DSHS/DVR and ODHH continue to collaborate to increase communication access for the staff who serve this population and to provide greater accommodations for rural customers. DSHS/DVR is represented on the ODHH Advisory Committee.

Health Care Authority

The Health Care Authority (HCA) administers Medicaid services to all DSHS/DVR customer recipients. DSHS/DVR and HCA closely coordinate to assure that individuals receive medical and behavioral health services necessary to achieve their employment goals. In addition, DSHS/DVR is working to develop a cooperative agreement with HCA, DBHR, and DDA that describes how Title 19 services under the State Medicaid Plan, including community-based waiver programs, will be utilized to develop and support integrated, community-based employment opportunities for customers.

HCA also administers Health Care for Workers with Disabilities (HWD), a Medicaid buy-in program. DSHS/DVR coordinates with HWD to assist qualified individuals in continuing to receive medical benefits after they become employed.

Tribal Programs

DSHS/DVR and the Department of Services for the Blind (DSB) have a joint memorandum of understanding with Washington's eight Tribal 121 programs. This joint memorandum outlines how all partners will ensure effective communication, collaboration, coordination, and cooperation in serving individuals with disabilities who are tribal members in Washington. The agreement, updated on an annual basis, outlines procedures for referrals, joint cases, financial responsibility, shared training opportunities, information sharing, and communication. Tribal 121 directors meet annually with DSHS/DVR and DSB directors in a government-to-government collaboration to promote partnership, maximize resources, and ensure high service quality.

Through DSHS, DSHS/DVR continues its cooperative working relationships and service delivery commitments with all federally recognized tribes in Washington, including those that do not operate federally funded Tribal VR programs. DSHS/DVR participates as a member on the DSHS Indian Policy Advisory Committee. This includes annual and quarterly meetings to review our partnership and identify service delivery improvements for individuals with disabilities who are members of federally recognized tribes as well as those who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

Governor's Committee on Disability Issues and Employment (GCDE)

The DSHS/DVR Director participates as a member of the GCDE and partners with committee members on initiatives.

Centers for Independent Living

DSHS/DVR currently contracts Title VII, Part B funds to four independent living centers statewide. These centers use Part B funds to enhance and expand core independent living services with a focus on youth with significant disabilities. In addition to core services, independent living centers have been focusing on outreach to increase services in unserved or underserved geographic areas. Additional outreach

efforts include targeted disability groups, minority groups, and urban or rural populations with the focus on youth with significant disabilities and 504 plans. The goal is to create a safe environment for youth with disabilities in which youth feel comfortable and confident when talking to allies. This goal will be accomplished by enhancing youth understanding of independent living philosophy, successful self-advocacy, and how engage with legislators about disability issues.

Washington State Business Leadership Network (WSBLN)

The WSBLN is a network of employers who educate and support businesses to hire, retain, and improve customer service for people with disabilities.

Community Employment Alliance

The Community Employment Alliance is a membership organization comprised of CRPs. DSHS/DVR participates in meetings to share information, hear concerns and collaborate on issues affecting employment services.

Traumatic Brain Injury Strategic Partnership Advisory Council

In the late 1990s, DSHS/DVR was the primary sponsor of a demonstration grant to identify gaps in providing services to individuals who sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI). DSHS/DVR continues to be a represented member of the TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council. This group discusses TBI-related policy issues, system development, and/or the need for services to meet the needs of TBI survivors, family members, prospective employers and community members. The TBI Strategic Partnership Advisory Council has identified gaps in housing, a lack of resources and a need for support group facilitator training. This Council has successfully encouraged the Washington State Legislature to pass legislation that adds fees to specific traffic violations (e.g. negligent driving and speeding) which correlate with increased risk of injury accidents and TBIs. These collected fees are used to help fund TBI-related programs and resources. DSHS/DVR continues to be an active partner in addressing the needs of individuals who have been, or will be affected by, traumatic brain injuries.

University of Washington Rehabilitation Program

Since 2006, DSHS/DVR and the University of Washington Rehabilitation Counseling Unit have collaborated to maintain an on-site Rehabilitation Medicine-DSHS/DVR liaison role. This mutually beneficial relationship improves inpatient and outpatient care at the University of Washington Medical Center (UWMC) by providing UWMC patients with direct access to DSHS/DVR services during their hospital treatment. Early introduction in the medical setting provides DSHS/DVR with comprehensive insight into patient needs and makes the referral process more efficient. This relationship provides UWMC patients with additional resources for education, support, and funding. The DSHS/DVR liaison works to coordinate DSHS/DVR orientation and intake procedures for individuals referred from UW Rehab Medicine; determines eligibility for DSHS/DVR services; provides information and referral; participates in UWMC team staffing to coordinate DSHS/DVR services with the interdisciplinary team treatment; upon release from the hospital, assists with transitioning the individual to a VR Counselor near their home; learns about extensive medical and other resources available through the UW Medical School; and shares resources with other DSHS/DVR counselors.

US Department of Agriculture

DSHS/DVR has not entered into agreements with programs carried out by the Under Secretary for Rural Development of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

State Use Contracts

DSHS/DVR has not entered into agreements related to state use contracts.

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